

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 11-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,448,700 to Seidner. The Office Action, on page 4, rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,770,899 to Hayashi; on page 4, rejects claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidner in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0145353 to Kimura et al. (hereinafter "Kimura"); and on page 5, rejects claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidner in view of Hayashi further in view of Kimura. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Seidner teaches improvements in liquid-cooled machines (col. 1, lines 5-6). With reference to, for example, Fig. 1, and specifically elements no. 13 of Seidner, the Office Action alleges that Seidner can reasonably be considered to teach a stator core having a plurality of slots in which coils are wound, indicating that element 18, for example, can reasonably be considered to correspond to a stator coil wound inside said slot. Applicants respectfully submit that such an interpretation requires an overly broad reading of the subject matter disclosed in Seidner. Even with reference to Fig. 8, to which the Office Action refers, longitudinal holes, as shown in Fig. 8, are indicated as being filled with cooling liquid and not having a stator coil wound inside any particular slot. In Fig. 1, element 18, for example, does not appear to be wound inside any slot in the stator coil that could reasonably be considered to correspond to the subject matter of the pending claims.

Applicants, however, voluntarily amend claim 1 to better clarify the subject matter recited in that claim.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a motor for a vehicle comprising a rotor and a stator core having a plurality of slots disposed in a direction of said rotation shaft in a manner with an opening facing a peripheral surface of said rotor; a stator coil wound substantially completely within said plurality of slots; a cooling passage formed in each of said plurality of slots such that said stator coil comes in contact with a cooling liquid, said cooling passage being implemented by covering the opening facing the peripheral surface of the rotor of each of said plurality of slots with a sealing member.

Even a broad interpretation of Seidner does not yield any feature, or combination of features, that can reasonably be considered to correspond to the specifically recited configuration of the stator core, stator coil and cooling passages positively recited in the subject matter of the pending claims, configurations of which are supported by at least Fig. 2A-2C of Applicants' disclosure.

Additionally, neither of Hayashi or Kimura overcome the above-identified shortfall in the application of Seidner to the subject matter of at least independent claim 1.

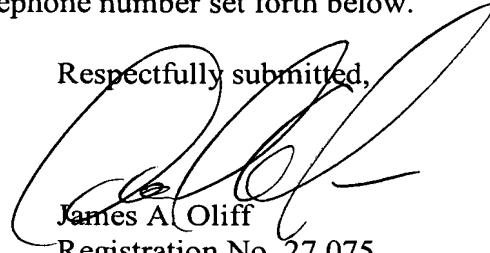
For at least the reasons indicated above, Seidner cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features positively recited in independent claim 1. Further, claims 3-8 and 11-14 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested by Seidner taken alone, or in combination with any of the other applied prior art references, for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on an allowable independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3-8 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Seidner, or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seidner in any combination with Kimura and Hayashi, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-8 and 11-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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